ADDITIONAL SCOTTISH RECORDS FOR EUDECTUS WHITEI SHARP (COL.: STAPHYLINIDAE), WITH A COMMENT ON ITS STATUS IN BRITAIN. — Further to my recent note on this species (1987 *Ent. Rec.* **99**: 96), I can now record its presence at two more Scottish sites — Aonach air Chrith, Wester Ross, where I sieved a specimen from moss and gravel at about 1020m on 11.vi.87 and Creag Meadaidh, Westerness, where I obtained a specimen from eight pitfall traps set (7.vi.87 to 6.viii.87) at 1120m. I also obtained, last summer, 19 specimens from 16 pitfall traps set (13.vi.87 to 15.viii.87) on the summit of Ben Macdui, Easterness, a site from which the beetle has already been recorded.

I have now taken this species on the summits of six widely distributed Scottish hills. I have set pitfall traps on the summits of five hills (Ben Macdui and Cairgorm, Easterness; Creag Meagaidh, Westerness; Sgurr Mohr, Wester Ross, Medall Buidhe, Perth West) and have taken, by this means, *Eudectus* at all but the last. In the literature, the species has been reported from the summits of various other Scottish hills, including Cross Graig, Rannoch, Perthshire which has an altitude of only 747m (2470ft) (Harwood, P. 1921 *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* **57**: 233). There are listed (in *Munro's tables* ed. R.M.G. Inglis, *The Scottish Mountaineering Club,* Edinburgh, 1953) 540 separate summits in Scotland over 3000ft (910m) in altitude and another 200 above 2500ft (758m) i.e. at least 740 hill summits higher that Cross Craig. Not all of these may provide homes for *Eudectus* but my findings, together with those of others, suggest that many probably do. The species was graded category R.D.B. 1 (in *British Red Data Books 2 Insects*, D.B. Shirt, Nature Conservancy Council 1987) but, in the light of present knowledge, it is difficult to see how it can really be endangered. Indeed, its traditional rarity, at least in Scotland, would seem to stem much more from the remoteness of the summits of Scottish hills and the difficulty in finding the beetle there than from genuine scarcity.

I thank Messrs D.J.M. and T.A. Owen for help in setting and retrieving the pitfall traps and Mr E.M. Mathew, Regional Officer, North East (Scotland) Region, N.C.C. for permission to carry out pitfall trapping studies on the Cairngorm and Creag Meagaidh National Nature Reserves. — J.A. OWEN, 8 Kingsdown Road, Epsom, Surrey.

APHELIA UNITANA (HBN.) (LEP.: TORTRICIDAE) IN DEVON AND A LARVAL DESCRIPTION — On 13th June 1983 I took a male *Aphelia* sp. at Heddon's Mouth, north Devon (v.c.4). I assumed that it was *paleana* (Hbn.) because the locality was considerably outside the known range in England of *unitana*; Bradley, Tremewan and Smith ((1973) *British tortricoid moths.* Cochylidae and Tortricidae: Tortricinae) give Staffordshire as the southernmost English county. I am very grateful to Mr E.C. Pelham-Clinton who, without seeing the specimen, suggested that because of the date it might be *unitana*, which it proved to be on dissection.

A. unitana has also been found in south Devon (v.c.3). Mr E.C. Pelham-Clinton took one at light at Axminster on 28th June 1986 and has kindly allowed me to publish his record. On 27th April 1987 at Bucks Mills, Devon (v.c.4) I found several *Aphelia* sp. larvae in spun leaves of *Rubus fructicosus* agg., *Heracleum sphondylium, Rumex acetosa* and *Mercurialis perennis*. These produced one male and several female *A. unitana* between 27th and 30th May 1987. Bradley, Tremewan and Smith (*loc. cit.*) describe the forewing of the male as having a silver-grey appearance, occasionally with a slight yellowish tinge. Both my male specimens have the forewing distinctly ochreous yellow.

Bradley, Tremewan and Smith do not describe the larva. The larvae I found were about half grown and the description I made was: head light brown, marked with black posteriorly; plate black finely bisected white; body greenish black with a feint light grey subspiracular line on the first two segments, pinacula black feintly ringed light grey; anal plate black. When full grown the description was the same except that the body was black, the subspiracular line was more distinct and the pinacula were more distinctly ringed light grey. The pupa was black. — R.J. HECKFORD, 67 Newnham Road, Plympton, Plymouth.

LATHYRUS PRATENSIS L. — A HOST PLANT OF LEUCOPTERA LATHYRIFOLIELLA (STT.) AND PHYLLONORYCTER NIGRESCENTELLA (LOGAN) — The unwisdom of not looking at certain plant species because nothing is believed to feed on them was exemplified in early August 1987 when E.C. Pelham-Clinton and I found mines of both the above species on *Lathyrus pratensis* at Branscombe, Devon. *L. lathyrifoliella* is well known in the area feeding on *Lathyrus sylvaticus* L., and *P. nigrescentella* has been found on *Vicia sepium* within half a mile, although no mines were found on this plant in the immediate vicinity. Dr J.R. LANGMAID, 1 Dorrita Close, Southsea, Hants PO4 0NY.

SOME HOST PLANTS OF THE SMALL FAN-FOOT MOTH, HERMINIA GRISEALIS D.&S. (LEP.: NOCTUIDAE) IN THE WILD — My experience suggests that this is most commonly met with in the vicinity of oaks. At Park Farm, Kidlington, Oxon where oak is poorly represented it was seldom seen during ten years of light trapping (1976-1986), although it occurred regularly at light traps in surrounding woods. Hofman's records (quoted in Barrett, 1900, *The Lepidoptera of the British Isles*. 6) of rasberry and blackberry as alternative foodplants are widely quoted (eg in South's *Moths of the British Isles* series I). Skinner, in *Colour identification guide to moths of the British Isles* gives oak and alder. Allen, 1949, *Larval foodplants,* gives only wild rasberry, although indicating that in captivity it will take a wide range of forest trees. Heath and Emmet in *MBGBI,* vol. 10 give oak "and other trees". The following records of feral larvae may therefore be of interest: